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courage is contagious

Viewing cable 05BOGOTA9257, RECONCILIATION COMMISSION CONFIRMS PEACE PROCESS \

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#05BOGOTA9257**.

| Reference ID | Created | Released | Classification | Origin |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 05BOGOTA9257 | 2005-09-29 20:31 | 2011-08-30 01:44 | SECRET//NOFORN | Embassy Bogota |

Appears in these articles:

[www.letemps.ch/swiss_papers](#)

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

292031Z Sep 05

41662 2005-09-29 20:31:00 05BOGOTA9257 Embassy Bogota SECRET//NOFORN This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of

292031Z Sep 05\

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BOGOTA 009257 \

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SIPDIS \

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NOFORN \

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/30/2015 \

TAGS: PGOV PTER SOCI CO ELN ELN FARC

SUBJECT: RECONCILIATION COMMISSION CONFIRMS PEACE PROCESS \

WITH GUERRILLAS STALLED \

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Classified By: Ambassador William B. Wood; reasons 1.4 \

(b) and (d) \

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Summary \

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¶1. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX discussed the status of the Catholic Church's role in peace \ talks between guerrilla groups and the Colombian government. \ He said he believed both negotiations were on hold) the ELN \ would not advance during Francisco Galan's parole and the \ FARC consistently had refused all offers to date. He \ commented that the Catholic Church's efforts to serve as \ intermediary had stalled, but it remained committed. \ XXXXXXXXXXXX claimed that imprisoned FARC "ambassador" Rodrigo \ Granda had prostate cancer and was reluctant to seek \ treatment outside of prison because he feared for his life. \ End summary. \

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ELN's Galan on Parole but Little More \

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¶2. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX met Emboffs on September 22 and \ updated the Catholic Church's role in potential GOC talks \ with guerrillas. According to XXXXXXXXXXXX, the Catholic Church \ is committed to peace with the National Liberation Army (ELN) \ but not optimistic that ELN leader Francisco Galan's \ three-month parole will advance talks. Galan's release is a \ good gesture, but he will spend most of his time shuttling \ between Bogota, Medellin and Cali to talk with civil society, \ he noted. XXXXXXXXXXXX said the Catholic Church decided to \ take a low-profile role in the Galan initiative, believing it \ would not amount to much. He added that the Church remained \ frustrated with the ELN in the wake of its attempt to \ negotiate with Galan in July 2004. The ELN kidnapped the \ Bishop of Yopal while a senior Church delegation was visiting \ with Galan in prison. In XXXXXXXXXXXX's view, this underscored \ that either the ELN was not serious about talks, or \ disorganized and unable to control its fighters. The \ Catholic Church had to forgive, said XXXXXXXXXXXX, but it had \ not forgotten the ELN's actions. \

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Church's Bolo Azul Suggestion Leaked \

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¶3. (C) All Catholic Church attempts to date to negotiate a \ humanitarian exchange with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of \ Colombia (FARC) had failed, according to XXXXXXXXXXXX. He \ reported that recently the Church had attempted to select a \ prisoner exchange location that would be amenable to the GOC \ and FARC in Valle del Cauca Department. Valle del Cauca \ Governor Angelino Garzon suggested Bolo Azul Village, and \ XXXXXXXXXXXX had planned to keep the suggestion confidential \ until the Constitutional Court ruled on the legality of the \ reelection law. However, the secret reached ex-President \ Samper, who pushed the idea with the Uribe Administration. \ XXXXXXXXXXXX lamented that the Bolo Azul proposal had become \ "Uribefied," political, and therefore unacceptable to the \ FARC. He hoped that the Church could advance another \ proposal in a less politically charged climate in the future. \

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¶4. (S) XXXXXXXXXXXX asked whether Emboffs knew about the state \ of FARC "ambassador" Rodrigo Granda's health. He said the \

Church had discovered Granda had prostate cancer and refused \
medical treatment out of fear that he would be killed. The \
Church has asked the GOC for permission to visit Granda as a \
pastoral duty to assess his health. XXXXXXXXXXXX stressed that \
Granda is much more important than the Colombian Government \
knows and promised to keep the Embassy informed. He said the \
GOC had refused to allow the Church to visit FARC prisoner \
Simon Trinidad last year, stating that it did not want to \
create "a Galan for the FARC" referring to the temporarily \
paroled ELN interlocutor Francisco Galan. Nevertheless, \
XXXXXXXXXXXX was hopeful that Archbishop Castro would be allowed \
to visit Granda since he was incarcerated in Castro's \
pastoral district. \

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European Trip Interesting but not Useful \
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15. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX reported that his recent trip to Geneva, the \
Netherlands and Spain had been interesting but had not \
advanced the peace process. He spoke with several European \
officials, UN representatives, and unofficial interlocutors \
who agreed that the GOC's peace process with guerrilla groups \
had stalled. He was impressed by the Europeans' interest in \
the Colombia peace process, but commented that one unofficial \
Swiss representative (Jean Paul Gontard) had offered the FARC \
different incentives to begin a humanitarian exchange and \
received nothing for his efforts. "They (the FARC) have been \
stingy with him," said XXXXXXXXXXXX. \
WOOD \